



**SPEAKERS
CORNER**

**Habitat III PrepCom3
Exhibition Hall**

**Tuesday 26 July
Daily Summary**

The New Urban Agenda, which will be ratified by the 193 United Nations Member States at the Conference on Housing and Urban Sustainable Development Habitat III, in Quito, Ecuador, will set a course for urban development for the coming 20 years and establish a framework for all relevant stakeholders to work in. The second day of the Urban Speakers Corner put a different spin on the discussions, focusing on the aspects of the NUA that can be optimised. As stated in Sustainable Development Goal 11: “Make Cities and Human Settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”, urban development is at the core of future of sustainable development. Similar to the SDGs, the NUA will work as framework and support to help assess cities needs and how to achieve them.

The Urban Speakers Corner kicked off with the Indonesian Morning Session, during which recent growth and development trends in Indonesia were discussed. Indonesian speakers examined the question of increasing the local economic growth by improving the quality of housing and infrastructure. National and local representatives spoke and discussed best practices across various Indonesian cities. Most speakers in this session agreed that an adequate development could improve people’s lives. Mr. Ahmad Rifai and John Taylor (from Kota Kita Foundation) added that all stakeholders should be involved in the decision making process in order to ensure the best outcomes possible. All are valuable elements in the decision making process, including local people, as they know best what they need.

Mr. Yohan Santosa (from Cordaid) gave an interesting and eye opening presentation on Urban Resilience, followed by Ms. Thandie Mwape (from Partners for Resilience) who discussed the importance of the Triple Cs: Cities coping with Climate Change. This topic brought forward by Ms. Thandie Mwape today, examined the importance of linkages in development theory and practice. Ms. Mwape encouraged delegates to note the commitment from governments to strengthen the linkages and help bridging the gap between the urban, peri-urban and rural spheres. Furthermore, the urgent need to strengthen linkages between resources like land, water, energy, food, oceans and seas, was strongly emphasised. Ms. Uta Dietrich, Mr. Jose Siri (from United Nations University - International Institute for Global Health) and Mr. Datum Haji Mohammad Bin Mentek from the Malaysian

Government successively took the floor to argue in favour of an “eco-social approach to sustainable urban development for health and wellbeing”.

Mr. François Di Salvo (from the Centre Européen de Recherche et de Prospective Politique) introduced the theme of Cross-cooperation with NGO to boost Eco-Resilient citizens in there “village”, followed by Dr. Dolman Mijan (from Federal Department of Town & Country Planning, Malaysia), Mr. Donovan Storey (UN ESCAP), Ms. Milag San Jose-Ballesteros (C40) and Mr. Tadashi Matsumoto (OECD) who discussed “Pursuing Urban Green Growth for Sustainability and Resilience in Asia-Pacific”. They then furthered the topic of green growth, this time in Indonesia, with the input of Mr. Wahyu Mulyana (Executive Director of the Urban and Regional Development Institute of the Greater Jakarta).

Mr. Emani Kumar, Mr. Maimunah Shariff and Mr. Yunus Arikan (from ICLEI) then presented “Globalising integrated transformative actions to Ensure Sustainability of the Urban World 2030”.

Most speakers agreed that there is a need for the integration and cooperation of all sectors. Integration and cooperation of all stakeholders i.e. government, private sector, youth, woman, etc., is crucial, and should work towards generating better outcomes, further enhanced by the urban-rural integration up as well as the city to city cooperation.

“Urban-rural linkages in support to the New Urban Agenda” was then considered by Ms. Chikako Takase, Mr. Remy Sietchiping, Mr. Maruxa Cardama, Mr. David Suttie, Mr. Vito Cistulli, Mr. Tadashi Matsumoto, and Mr. Christine Platt, in line with Ms. Mwape’s presentation.

Dr. Donovan Storey, Ms. Ruth Erbeck, Hon. Mr. John G. Bongat and Mr. Riono Karsomo (from ESCAP, GIZ, City of Tanjung Pinang, Naga City) examined the theme of “Integrated Resource Management in Cities: Urban Nexus as a means of implementing the SDGs and the NUA”.

Presentations given today led also furthered discussions and debates on culture and design. Speakers reminded us that culture is one of the sustainable development pillars. In other terms, culture plays a key role in economic, social and environment development. Mr. Toru Hashimoto (from City of Yokohama) expressed his belief that culture is about living. Culture is embodied in people and manifests itself in the way of living. In line with Mr. Toru Hashimoto, Ms. Dwinita Larasati and Mr. Fiki Satari (from Bandung Creative City Forum) underlined that culture is also about a way of thinking, creativity, and can be intangible.

The sensitive issue of youth and children involvement in development was successively addressed, and speakers as well as the audience unanimously agreed on its importance. Ms. Vania Santoso (from UNICEF) argued that a participatory process should include marginalized populations, such as youth and children. The emphasis on the NUA commitment *Leave no one behind*, clearly expressed the importance to involve children in decision making, as according to the Ms. Santoso, the future belongs to them. The NUA should take into consideration the need to build a better future for our children, by ensuring that they have a chance not only to speak up but to take action as well.



United Nations